

Activity: Environmental Compliance and Review

Activity Summary

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Estimate	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Environmental Compliance and Review	391	393	+10	0	403	+10
Total Requirements	391	393	+10	0	403	+10
<i>Total FTE Requirements</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>

Mission Overview

The NR&P Environmental Compliance and Review activity supports the National Park Service mission by contributing to four goals for the National Park Service: 1) Natural and cultural resources are protected, restored, and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader context; 2) The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information; 3) Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services and appropriate recreational opportunities; 4) Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreation use. These goals directly support the Department of the Interior's Strategic Plan goals to protect the Nation's natural, cultural and heritage resources and provide recreation opportunities for America.

Activity Overview

The Environmental Compliance and Review activity provides review and comment on environmental impact statements, Federal licensing and permitting applications, and other actions which may impact areas of National Park Service jurisdiction and expertise. This activity ensures compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental protection mandates. It also provides comments on the effects on environmental quality resulting from proposed legislation, regulations, guidelines, Executive Orders regarding wild and scenic rivers, national trails, wilderness, resource management plans and activities from other agencies, recreation composites, Federal surplus property transfers, and related projects and undertakings.

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for the Environmental Compliance program is \$403,000 and 4 FTE, with no program changes requested for FY 2007.

Program Overview

The Environmental Compliance and Review program determines guidelines for implementing NEPA actions related to NPS activities, and coordinates/consults with other Federal agencies when those agencies' activities affect NPS interests. The National Park Service Environmental Compliance and Review activity supports the Department of the Interior's Strategic Plan goals to: "Protect the Nation's natural, cultural and heritage resources" and "Provide recreation opportunities for America" through its mandate to exercise stewardship over properties acquired, developed, or preserved through NPS grant programs and to protect other areas, such as wild and scenic rivers, cultural sites, and segments of the National Trails System. Protection is achieved through application of a variety of existing environmental mandates such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing, and permits issued under section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This activity provides the NPS with information crucial to science-based decision making necessary to improve the health of, and

sustain the biological communities on, the watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources it manages in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allocation and use of water, the protection of cultural and natural heritage resources, and the provision of a quality recreation experience.

- With the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, there is a requirement for increasing coordination with FERC in the review of new hydropower licenses in units of the NPS. FERC-related responsibilities in this activity focus primarily on regulatory compliance; mitigation and other resource protection measures are being addressed in the Hydropower Recreation Assistance component of the Natural Programs activity.
- In carrying out its responsibilities for NEPA compliance, the Environmental Compliance and Review Activity establishes the procedures governing the development of environmental evaluations of proposed NPS actions, including impacts to National Park System resources. In addition, this guidance provides for increased opportunities for public involvement and for participation by State, local, and Tribal governments in development of NPS NEPA documents when those governments have special expertise in the impacts or issues resulting from an NPS proposal.
- The Park Service continues to seek improvements to ensure public involvement and civic engagement through new technological tools, including the publicly accessible Internet-based Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) information system. PEPC will provide the public with improved access to draft planning and compliance documents together with comment capabilities.

FY 2007 Program Performance Estimates

- Reduction in review time of 10% from 2005 baseline.
- Increase use of Alternative Dispute processes to resolve conflicts avoiding potential time delays in project execution.

FY 2006 Planned Program Performance

- Execution of agreements with primary external stakeholders (FHWA) to reduce project review conflict and delay.
- Completion of improvements to project review system to lessen project processing time.

FY 2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

- Performed operational review of project distribution and initiation of improvements to distribution system.
- Received more than 1,400 incoming environmental documents produced by other agencies.
- Prepared more than 120 Secretarial letters to the Department of Transportation and more than 300 reviews of other transportation matters.
- Prepared more than 700 review comments on license and permit applications that involved recreation, historic or archeological resources.
- Completed more than 600 review comments on proposed regulations and other land use management, development, or other proposals.

Performance Overview

Environmental Compliance and Review activity does not have a direct impact on a specific NPS performance measure. It can indirectly impact all natural and cultural resources measures. See Natural Resources Management and Cultural Resources Management Performance Overview tables.
